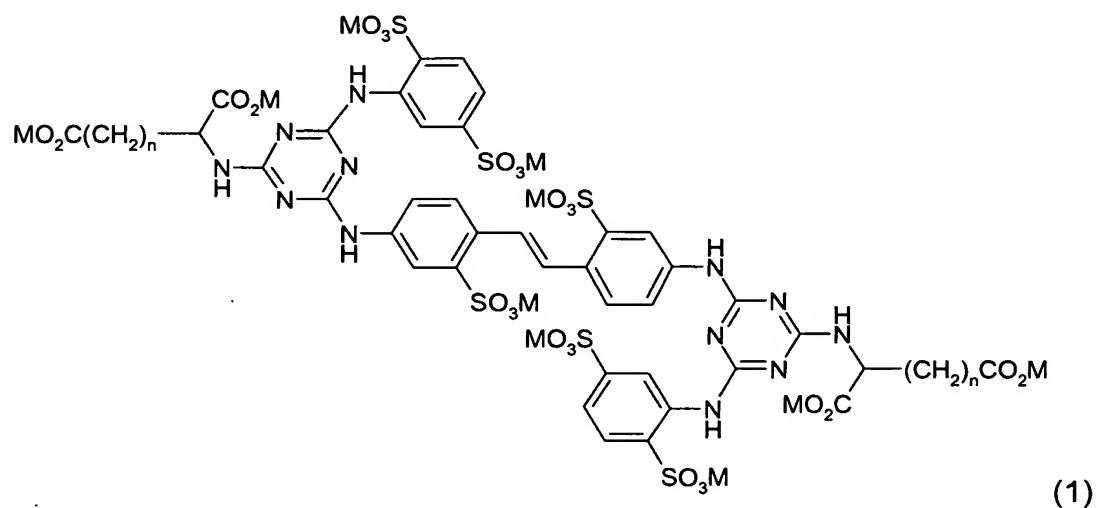


Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A storage-stable ~~Storage-stable~~ aqueous solution comprising ~~an~~ at least one optical brightener of formula (1)



wherein

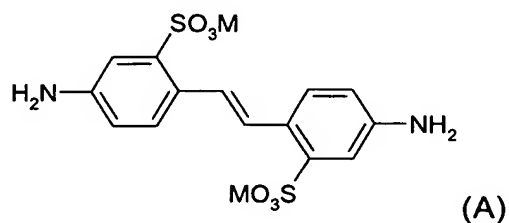
M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, ammonium, or ammonium which is mono-, di- or trisubstituted by a C₂-C₃-hydroxyalkyl radical, and
 n is from 1 to 4,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of the at least one optical brightener is higher than 0.214 mol/kg and ~~that~~ no solubilizing agent is contained in the solution.

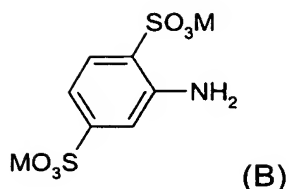
2. (currently amended) A storage-stable ~~Storage-stable~~ aqueous solution according to claim 1 wherein
 M is hydrogen or a sodium cation, and
 n is 1 or 2.

3. (currently amended) A storage-stable ~~Storage-stable~~ aqueous solution according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one optical brightener is from 0.215 mol/kg to 0.350 mol/kg.
4. (currently amended) A storage-stable ~~Storage-stable~~ aqueous solution according to claim 3 wherein the concentration of the at least one optical brightener is from 0.250 mol/kg to 0.340 mol/kg.
5. (currently amended) A storage-stable ~~Storage-stable~~ aqueous solution according to Claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein additionally further comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts, carriers, antifreezes, preservatives or complexing agents are contained.
6. (currently amended) A process for preparing a storage-stable ~~Process for the preparation of an~~ aqueous solution according to Claim 1 ~~comprising the steps of preparing the at least one optical brightener any of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein the ~~compounds of formula (1) are prepared by reacting~~ stepwise reaction of a cyanuric halide with

- a) a diamine of formula (A)

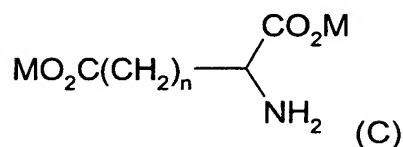


- b) an amine of formula (B)



and

c) an amine of formula (C)



to form a reaction solution,

and wherein at least 50 %, ~~preferably at least 80 %~~ by weight, of the alkali metal or amine salt ~~that is generated as a by-product of each by the reactions~~ between the diamine of formula a), an the amine of formula b) and the amine of formula c) and [[a]] the cyanuric halide is removed from the reaction solution.

7. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 6 wherein the removal of the alkali metal or amine salt is done by ultrafiltration or membrane filtration of the reaction solution or by isolating the optical brightener and then redissolving the reaction solution ~~dissolving it again.~~
8. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 7 wherein the removal is done by membrane filtration.
9. (currently amended) A process ~~Use of a storage-stable aqueous solution according to any of claims 1 to 5 for brightening of paper or other-cellulosic substrate containing a white pigment comprising the step of adding the storage stable aqueous solution of substrates wherein the optical brightener according~~

to Claim 1 ~~is used~~ in a concentration of 0.05 to 0.5 % by weight of the white pigment to the paper or cellulosic substrate during production thereof.

10. (currently amended) A process ~~Use~~ according to claim 9 for brightening of paper in a pigmented coating composition after sheet formation comprising the step of adding to the pigmented coating composition the storage-stable aqueous solution of Claim 1.
11. (new) The process according to Claim 6 wherein at least 80% by weight, of the alkali metal or amine salt generated as a by-product by the reactions between the diamine of formula a), the amine of formula b) and the amine of formula c) and the cyanuric halide is removed from the reaction solution.
12. (new) A paper or cellulosic substrate produced by the process according to Claim 9.
13. (new) A paper or cellulosic substrate produced by the process according to Claim 10.
14. (new) A paper or cellulosic substrate brightened with the storage-stable aqueous solution according to Claim 1.